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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

SHIRAI et al.

Application No.: 10/090,734

Filed: March 6, 2002

For: BALL CHAIN

Art Unit: New Application

Examiner: New Application

Atty Docket No. 101160-00021

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

April 9, 2002

Dear Sir:

Further to the Divisional Application filed on March 6, 2002, and prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified Application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please add the following after page 9 and before page 11:

Fig. 12 illustrates a front view and a sectional view showing a sixth embodiment of a ball chain according to the present invention;

Fig. 13 is a front view showing connecting portions according to the sixth embodiment;

Fig. 14 illustrates a front view and a sectional view showing a seventh embodiment of a ball chain according to the present invention;

Fig. 15 illustrates a front view and a sectional view showing an eighth embodiment of a ball chain according to the present invention;

Fig. 16 is a front view showing a conventional ball chain;

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